

After nine years and many surgeries, *patient finally finds relief*

AT FRANCISCAN HEALTH



Dr. Jared Mahylis

Ullasue Thompson fractured her arm in 2009. Nine years and multiple surgeries later, the bone still wasn't healed.

"I couldn't use my left arm, not even to hold a plastic spoon," Thompson said. "Any movement brought pain. I lived on ibuprofen."

The South Holland resident sustained a distal humerus shaft fracture in the upper arm between the shoulder and the elbow while visiting Germany, where her first two surgeries were performed.

Over the years, more surgeries in the United States followed. None brought sufficient healing of her fracture. In fact, Thompson said her arm was getting worse.

Then, a recommendation brought Thompson to Franciscan Health orthopedic surgeon, Jared Mahylis, MD.

"It was a very complex situation," Dr. Mahylis said. "The bone wasn't healing, the metal plates previously put in place in an attempt to fix her fracture had failed and there were risks involved with another surgery."

They discussed those risks and together decided to try physical therapy.

"Ullasue came to see me several months after starting therapy and, unfortunately, instead of improving, she was in more pain with less function," said Dr. Mahylis.

Surgery then became the best option.

"Dr. Mahylis explained what could go wrong, which I liked because some doctors say all will

be fine," Thompson said. "He also explained what could be right."

Surgery was scheduled for February 2018.

During the procedure, Dr. Mahylis removed all of the plates and broken screws that could be safely removed from the fracture.

"We put on two new plates to hold the fracture in place and packed in a bone graft from her pelvis to try and get it to heal," he said.

For a period of three months following surgery, Thompson used a bone stimulator to help induce the cells of the bone to heal and lay down new bone. She also went to physical therapy.

Today, Thompson is pain-free and has full use of her left arm.

"I can cook and clean, rake leaves, crochet and do all the everyday tasks we take for granted," she said. "The difference is like night and day."

Thompson is grateful for the care she received from Dr. Mahylis.

"Sometimes he would call me at home to keep track of me," Thompson said. "I wasn't just a number."

The doctor takes little credit for her results.

"I think the surgery helped but it definitely was only a portion of what allowed her to recover,"

Dr. Mahylis said. "The therapy was very important as was her will and dedication to heal and get better. She was diligent, following my instructions and taking things slowly, easily and progressively. I think she's done a great job."

Jared Mahylis, MD, is a Specialty Physicians of Illinois, LLC, orthopedic surgeon who chooses to practice at Franciscan Health. Dr. Mahylis, whose office is located at 20201 S. Crawford Ave. in Olympia Fields, can be reached at (708) 679-2380.

Franciscan Health orthopedic surgery patient, Ullasue Thompson exercises in her South Holland home.



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